

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An audio dispensing valve for a beverage dispenser, comprising:
 - a valve for regulating beverage fluid flow through the audio dispensing valve;
 - a switch in operative engagement with the valve for selectively activating the valve;
 - an audio unit linked with the switch for providing audible information therefrom.
2. The audio dispensing valve according to claim 1 wherein the audio unit is activated and deactivated in cooperative engagement with the switch as the switch selectively activates the valve.
3. The audio dispensing valve according to claim 1 wherein the audio unit comprises:
 - a sensor linked with the switch for activating and deactivating the audio unit via a trigger signal generated thereof; and
 - a sonic generator assembly linked with the sensor for providing audible information therefrom.
4. The audio dispensing valve according to claim 3 wherein the sonic generator assembly comprises:
 - an audio message memory unit for storing an audio message;
 - an audio control logic unit linked with the sensor and the audio message

memory unit for receiving the trigger signal from the sensor and generating an acoustic signal thereof; and

an acoustic signal emitter linked with the audio control logic unit for projecting the acoustic signal from the audio dispensing valve.

5. The audio dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio control logic unit retrieves the audio message from the audio message memory unit and places the audio message in a recognizable format for the acoustic signal emitter.

6. The audio dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the acoustic signal emitter comprises:

an audio amplifier electrically linked with the audio control logic unit for receiving the acoustic signal from the audio control logic unit; and

a loudspeaker electrically linked with the audio amplifier, whereby the audio amplifier provides sufficient power to the acoustic signal to drive the loudspeaker so that the acoustic signal is projected from the audio dispensing valve.

7. The audio dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio unit further comprises a volume adjustment linked with the sonic generator assembly for adjusting output volume of the acoustic signal projected from the audio dispensing valve.

8. A method for providing audible information from an audio dispensing valve, comprising the steps of:

storing an audio message containing audible information within an audio unit;

linking the audio unit with a switch;
activating the audio unit with the switch;
generating an acoustic signal with the audio unit; and
projecting the acoustic signal from the audio dispensing valve via the
audio unit.

9. The method according to claim 8 further comprising the step of linking a
volume adjustment with the audio assembly for adjusting output volume of the acoustic
signal projected from the audio unit.

06780-342450